

E/045/129
Jen Carver
Prudden



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Salt Lake Field Office
2370 South 2300 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84119

IN REPLY REFER TO:

3809
U-77032
(UT-023)

APR 13 2004

Certified Mail Number 7002 2030 0002 9663 9320
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. James Prudden
Prudden Geoscience Services, Inc.
455 Railroad Street, Suite 137
Elko, NV 89801

RECEIVED

APR 14 2004

DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

Dear Mr. Prudden:

On September 20, 1999 we accepted your Notice to conduct exploratory drilling activities on your Aragonite mining claims located in T. 1 S., R. 10 W., Section 25 and 26. In your submitted Notice, you stated that the subject exploratory drilling activities were scheduled to occur during the month of June, 1999. We designated your Notice as casefile U-77032. The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (UDOGM) subsequently assigned your Notice as casefile number E/045/129.

In August, 2000, this office conducted a routine inspection of the exploration area described in your Notice. At the time of this inspection, it was determined that if any of your exploratory activities had occurred the previous year, the site had been satisfactorily reclaimed. Because your exploratory activities had apparently ceased, on September 19, 2000, this office sent a certified letter to your address of record at 4809 Quail Point Road in Salt Lake City, Utah, notifying you that the subject casefile would be closed. A signed Return Receipt (green card) was returned to the Salt Lake Field Office on September 25, 2000, indicating that you had received the subject letter. On September 22, 2000, we received a copy of a letter sent to you by UDOGM indicating that they had also closed their casefile for your exploratory activities. On September 25, 2000, your Notice casefile, serial number U-77032 was officially closed by the Salt Lake Field Office.

On October 23, 2000, we received a letter from you requesting a one-year extension of the subject Notice. On November 14, 2000, this office sent you a certified letter informing you that the Notice casefile serial number U-77032 was officially closed. You were informed that any additional activities on the subject mining claims would require the submittal of a new Notice or Plan of Operations before these activities could commence. On December 11, 2000, the letter was returned to this office by the U.S. Post Office as "undeliverable." At that time, Salt Lake Field Office geologist Cheryl Martinez telephoned your office and was informed that you had moved to a new address on Redwood Road. Ms. Martinez re-sent the subject letter to your new address of record. A signed Return Receipt (green card) was returned to the Salt Lake Field Office on December 19, 2000, indicating that you had received the subject letter.

On March 8, 2004, you contacted Salt Lake Field Office (SLFO) geologist Michael Ford to discuss the exploratory activities in your Notice of September 20, 1999. You were informed by Mr. Ford that the subject casefile had been closed on September 25, 2000. At that time, you requested that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) remove the signs and logs that had been placed along the access road leading to your claim area so that you could conduct your exploratory drilling activities. Mr. Ford informed you that because your Notice casefile had been closed, you were not permitted to conduct any additional surface disturbance on the subject mining claims, other than "casual use", without first submitting a new Notice and providing a reclamation

bond to the BLM for those exploratory activities. At that time, you requested that SLFO staff meet with you to discuss the removal of the signs and logs that were preventing you from freely accessing your claim area.

On March 10, 2004, you met with SLFO staff to determine what the BLM could do to allow you access into your claim area. Also in attendance at that meeting was your partner, Ralph Goodall. At that meeting, we discussed why the access road had been signed and blocked by the BLM, why we still considered your Notice to conduct exploratory activities on the subject claims to be closed, and how we could facilitate access by you into your claim area to conduct casual use activities. At that meeting you agreed that prior to conducting any exploratory drilling activities in the claim area, you would submit a new Notice to the SLFO. I agreed to visit the site as soon as weather conditions allowed and move/and or replace the subject signage and move the logs which currently prevent access so that you could freely conduct casual use-level exploratory activities on your claims.

On Friday April 2, 2004, myself, Aaron Kania, and Larry Garahana made a field inspection of the area of your claims. Our field inspection of the access route revealed that it has been traditionally used to access your claims ~~has not been used for several years and that grasses and shrubs had grown over much of the former route.~~ The only place the access route is easily visible is at the very beginning where it leaves the main Hastings Pass road. It appears that the road was bladed for approximately 150 feet a year or two ago, probably by the county road grader. The sign and the tree limbs that have been placed in the route were for the purpose of discouraging the use of this route by the general public and to prevent their use of this route through your claim area to access and create routes in the Cedar Mountain Wilderness Study Area immediately west of your claim area.

Since this continues to be an important concern for us, it is my determination that the sign and tree limbs should remain in place to continue to serve their purpose. We examined the area carefully and determined that you can still access your claim area by simply driving around the sign and the tree limbs as shown on the photos attached.

The area is not too rough for a pickup truck with or without 4 wheel drive capabilities to drive around to the west of the sign. Since you currently do not have an approved Notice for doing mechanized work on your claims as explained above, this should be sufficient for your casual use-level exploratory activities on your claims while continuing to serve the purpose of discouraging the general public from using the route for general purpose recreation.

If you decide to do any work beyond casual use-level activities, you must submit a new Notice and be bonded before this work can be done. Opening and improving the route could be part of your Notice. This letter is intended to memorialize our meeting of March 10, 2004. Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, or require additional information, please feel free to contact Michael Ford of my staff at (801) 977-4360.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Nelson
Acting Assistant Field Office Manager,
Non-Renewable Resources

cc: D. Wayne Hedberg
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Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5801